

Message Text

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PAGE 01 PORT M 00705 020710Z
ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 IO-14 SMI-01 CEQ-01 EPA-04 COME-00
OES-07 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03
NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-15
/093 W

-----020733Z 032506 /16

R 020505Z JUN 77
FM AMEMBASSY PORT MORESBY
TO DEPT OF INTERIOR WASHDC
SECSTATE WASHDC 2318

UNCLAS PORT MORESBY 0705

DEPT OF INTERIOR FOR FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

E.O. 11652: NA
TAGS: ETRD EPAP SENV PP
SUBJ: GPNG PROTEST TO PROPOSED U.S. PROHIBITION OF IMPORTATION
OF PAPUA NEW GUINEA CROCODILE HIDES

1. PNG DEPT OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND TRADE HAS ASKED THAT
EMBASSY PASS ON FOLLOWING DIPLOMATIC NOTE TO USG:

QTE:.....THE INTRODUCTION OF A PROPOSED UNITED STATES
LEGISLATION PROHIBITING THE COMMERCIAL TRADE IN ENDANGERED
SPECIES UNDER THE 'SIMILARITY OF APPEARANCE' CLAUSE OF
THE UNITED STATES ENDANGERED SPECIES ACT OF 1973. IT IS
PROVIDED UNDER THIS ACT THAT EIGHT CROCODILIAN SPECIES OWING
TO 'SIMILARITY OF APPEARANCE' HAVE BEEN TREATED AS
ENDANGERED SPECIES AND THEREFORE CANNOT BE TRADED COMMERCIALY
IN THE UNITED STATES' MARKET. IT IS UNDERSTOOD
BOTH PAPUA NEW GUINEA'S CROCODILE SPECIES (CROCODYLUS POROSUS
AND CROCODYLUS NOVAEGUINEAE NOVAEGUINEAE) ARE LISTED AMONG
THE EIGHT (REF VOL 42 NO 66 OF FEDERAL REGISTER PAGE 18287.
THE DEPT ALSO HAS THE HONOUR TO INFORM THE EMBASSY THAT
THE PAPUA NEW GUINEA GOVERNMENT WISHES TO PROTEST
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AGAINST THE INTRODUCTION OF THE PROPOSED LEGISLATION. BY
MAKING IT ILLEGAL TO TRADE IN ENDANGERED SPECIES IN THE
UNITED STATES, PAPUA NEW GUINEA'S CROCODILE INDUSTRY WILL
BE SERIOUSLY AFFECTED. POTENTIAL MARKETS FOR PAPUA NEW
GUINEA CROCODILE SKINS IN THE UNITED STATES WILL BE DENIED
AND THE PRICES FOR CROCODILE SKINS WILL DECLINE. FURTHERMORE,
VILLAGERS IN SWAMPY REGIONS OF THE COUNTRY LIKE THE SEPIK

MADANG, GULF AND WESTERN PROVINCES, WHO DEPEND ON THE CROCODILE INDUSTRY FOR THEIR LIVELIHOOD WILL OBVIOUSLY BE AFFECTED. UNQTE.

2. COMMENT: AT PRESENT TIME PNG'S EXPORT OF CORCODILE HIDES TO U.S. IS VALUED AT APPROXIMATELY US \$60,000, OR ONLY ABOUT 5 PERCENT OF PNG CROCODILE HIDE EXPORTS. IN PAST YEAR, HOWEVER, THE INDUSTRY HAS MADE NEW CONTACTS IN U.S. AND, IN ADDITION, IS IN POSITION TO SUBSTANTIALLY INCREASE PRODUCTION. THEY EXPECT EXPORTS TO RISE TO U.S. \$250,000 IN NEXT SEASON. THEREARE ABOUT 250 CROCODILE FARMS IN PNG WITH APPROXIMATELY 1000 EMPLOYEES. MANY HAVE BEEN STARTED IN PAST TWO YEARS AND ARE ONLY NOW READY TO HARVEST. IN ADDITION, MNAY VILLAGES HUNT WILD CROCODILES. MOST OF THE CASH EARNINGS OF THE WESTERN PROVINCE COME FROM CROCODILE HIDES AND IN MANY CASES IT IS THE VILLAGE'S ONLY SOURCE OF CASH INCOME. EMBASSY BELIEVES THAT PROPOSED LEGISLATION WILL CAUSE GREAT DEAL OF HARDSHIP ON FAIRLY LARGE NUMBER OF PEOPLE.

3. WE BELIEVE THAT ARRANGEMENTS COULD BE MADE TO INSURE THAT CROCODILE HIDES COMING FROM PAPUA NEW GUINEA DO INDEED COME FROM THAT SOURCE. WE BELIEVE THIS PROBLEM HAS ARISEN IN CONNECTION WITH OTHER COMMODITIES AND BELIEVE IT HAS BEEN POSSIBLE TO WORK OUT CERTIFICATION PROCEDURES PERMITTING IMPORTATION FROM ONE COUNTRY WHILE PROHIBITING IMPORTATION OF SIMILAR PRODUCT FROM OTHER.

4. WE STRONGLY RECOMMEND THAT APPROPRIATE AUTHORITIES REVIEW THIS PROBLEM.

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: IMPORT CONTROLS, DIPLOMATIC NOTES, DIPLOMATIC PROTESTS, HIDES & SKINS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 02-Jun-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977PORTM00705
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770196-0393
Format: TEL
From: PORT MORESBY
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
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Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770698/aaaadhmv.tel
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Litigation History:
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Message ID: 0b074186-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
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Retention: 0
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Review Date: 19-Oct-2004 12:00:00 am
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Review Exemptions: n/a
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To: INT STATE
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Review Markings:
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